

We claim:

1. A call management system that manages an incoming call of a subscriber having an on-line data network capability, said system comprising:

    a memory that stores subscriber preferences to provide a basis to manage incoming calls;

    a network presence server that accesses the network to ascertain an online status of the subscriber;

    a call waiting server that indicates an incoming call to the subscriber when logged on the network;

    a call transfer server that forwards an incoming call according to a forwarding number;

    a voicemail server that prompts a calling party to leave a message; and

    a controller responsive to the online status of the subscriber to effect handling of the incoming call by at least one of the call waiting server, call transfer server, and voicemail server according to preferences stored in the memory.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the servers are implemented by respective software routines of at least one data processing device.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the network comprises one of an Internet, an Ethernet, a LAN, and a WAN.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the memory stores subscriber preferences including at least one of a call forwarding number, a voicemail directive, and a network call waiting directive.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the controller dynamically responds to the on-line status of the subscriber to determine a set of subscriber preferences to be provided to the subscriber.
6. The system of claim 2, wherein the network call waiting server provides call management options to the subscriber via an options selection menu that is displayed on a subscriber terminal.
7. The system of claim 2, wherein the call transfer server forwards an incoming call to one of the voicemail server and a call forwarding number according to the subscriber preferences.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the controller detects an incoming call, retrieves subscriber preferences, and ascertains online network status and telephone line status of the subscriber.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the call waiting server is activated by the controller and, depending on the subscriber preferences, either activates the controller to forward the incoming call to the call transfer server or provides the subscriber with

options for handling an incoming call and activates the controller to execute the subscriber's selected option.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the call transfer server is activated by the controller, selects an alternate forwarding number using subscriber preferences, and activates the controller to forward the incoming call to the forwarding number.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the voicemail server is activated by the controller, and activates the controller to handle the message or alert the caller according to the subscriber's preferences.

12. A call management system that handles an incoming call of a subscriber having an on-line Internet capability, said system comprising:

a database that stores subscriber preferences that provide directives for handling the incoming call;

a network presence server that accesses the Internet to ascertain an online status of the subscriber;

a call waiting server, responsive to at least one of a subscriber preference and said network presence server, to activate an options selection menu at a terminal of the subscriber in response to an incoming call when the subscriber is online;

a call transfer server, responsive to at least one of a subscriber preference and said network presence server, to forward an incoming call to a forwarding number; and

a voicemail server, responsive to at least one of a subscriber preference and said network presence server, to prompt a calling party to leave a message.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said servers comprise respective software modules executed by at least one data processing device that is co-located with a local exchange network of a service provider.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein said servers comprise respective software modules executed by a data processing device located with a terminal of the subscriber.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein the behavior of the system is dynamically altered depending on an on-line status of the subscriber.